

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one purified, natural or synthetic polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which is represented wholly or partly by at least one sequence ~~chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO : 1, SEQ ID NO : 4, SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 8 ; SEQ ID NO : 9, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 and SEQ ID NO : 27, and homologs thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said polypeptide has a peptide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said polypeptide is in a dimeric or other multimeric form, ~~and preferably a dimeric form.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said polypeptide has undergone one or more post-translational modifications.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein said polypeptide is in the form of a polypeptide of sequence SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27, fused with another polypeptide, a hydrophilic or hydrophobic targeting agent or a bioconversion precursor.

6. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one polypeptide mixture derived from the proteolysis of a polypeptide, the sequence of which is represented wholly or partly by the sequence SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27, or homologs thereof, ~~and more particularly the sequence of which is represented by SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.~~

7. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~cosmetic treatment intended to combat~~ for combating skin conditions related to associated with a dysfunction of cell proliferation and/or differentiation, ~~characterized in that a cosmetic composition comprising~~ applying to the skin, the mucous membranes and/or the keratin fibers of a subject in need of such treatment, a thus effective amount of at least one

polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which comprises at least one sequence ~~chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO : 1, SEQ ID NO : 4, SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 8, SEQ ID NO : 9, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 and SEQ ID NO : 27, and homologs thereof, or a mixture derived from the proteolysis of said polypeptide, ~~is applied to the skin, the mucous membranes and/or the keratin fibers.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said polypeptide has the sequence SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~of cosmetic treatment~~ as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8, characterized in that it aims to treat~~ for the treatment of dry skin, hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis, sebogenesis conditions, neoplasias and/or signs of skin aging.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of~~ A method for treating a dermatological infection, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a thus effective amount of a polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which comprises at least one sequence ~~chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO : 1, SEQ ID NO : 4, SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ ID NO : 8, SEQ ID NO : 9, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 and SEQ ID NO : 27, and homologs thereof, ~~and more particularly in which said peptide sequence is represented wholly or partly by~~ SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 7, SEQ

~~ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27, or of a mixture derived from the proteolysis of said polypeptide, for preparing a pharmaceutical composition intended for the treatment of dermatological infections.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The use method as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that the pharmaceutical composition is intended to treat for the treatment of~~ ichthyosis, psoriasis, eczema, rosacea, lichens, pruritus, or any pathologies involving other pathology associated with hyperkeratosis or parakeratosis or having an inflammatory component.

12.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An isolated and purified polypeptide belonging to the aspartic acid protease family, ~~characterized in that it has~~ having a peptide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.

29. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28, ~~characterized in that it has~~ having an apparent molecular mass of between 5 and 30 kD, ~~more particularly of between 9 and 15 kD, and especially of between 11 and 14 kD.~~

30. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28 ~~or 29~~, characterized in that it is a which is in a dimeric or other multimeric form, and preferably a dimeric form.

31. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in ~~any one of claims 28 to 30~~ claim 28, characterized in that it has having a theoretical isoelectric point of between 3 and 9.

32. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in ~~any one of claims 28 to 31~~ claim 28, characterized in that it is said polypeptide being of natural origin and is purified from mammalian tissues.

33. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in ~~any one of claims 28 to~~ claim 32, characterized in that it is purified from human skin, and more particularly from human epidermis or other human skin.

34. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in ~~any one of claims 28 to 33~~, characterized in that it claim 28, which has undergone one or more post-translational modifications.

35. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 28 ~~or one of claims 30 to 34~~, characterized in that it which is in the form of a polypeptide of sequence SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27,

fused with another polypeptide, a hydrophilic or hydrophobic targeting agent or a bioconversion precursor.

36. (Currently Amended) A polyclonal or monoclonal antibody, ~~characterized in that it~~ which specifically recognizes a polypeptide, the peptide sequence of which is represented by SEQ ID NO : 5, SEQ ID NO : 6, SEQ ID NO : 16, SEQ ID NO : 25 or SEQ ID NO : 27.

37.-45. (Canceled)

46. (New) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 29, having an apparent molecular mass of between 9 and 15 kD.

47. (New) The polypeptide as claimed in claim 46, having an apparent molecular mass of between 11 and 14 kD.